# 2007 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

**Employment** Unemployment **Economic Regions** Migration
**Aboriginal People** Industries **Occupations** Education **Demographics**

# Employment

## ALBERTA'S HOT ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PRODUCE HIGH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN 2007

The number of employed Albertans in 2007 increased by 88,775, higher than the 2006 growth of 86,240.

The economy also contributed to significant job creation in 2007; 78,986 full-time and 9,789 part-time positions were created for a total of 88,775 new jobs.

With only about 10% of Canada's working age population, Alberta created 23.2% of the nation's new jobs. Ontario, with about 39% of Canada's working age population, created 26.5% of new jobs in Canada. (See *Figure 1*)

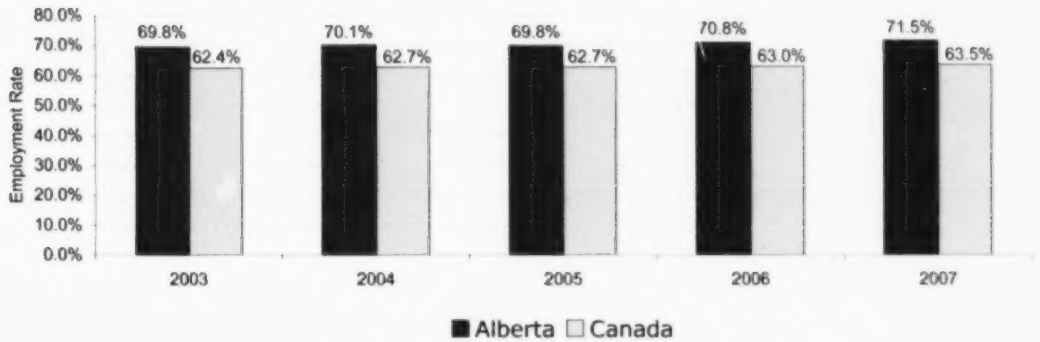
### Provincial and National Employment, 2007

| Province | Employment | Employment Change | % of nationwide employment change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta | 1,959,445 | 88,775 | 23.2% |
| British Columbia | 2,266,341 | 70,890 | 18.6% |
| Manitoba | 596,477 | 9,487 | 2.5% |
| New Brunswick | 362,820 | 7,409 | 1.9% |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 217,149 | 1,498 | 0.4% |
| Nova Scotia | 447,599 | 5,774 | 1.5% |
| Ontario | 6,593,778 | 101,066 | 26.5% |
| Prince Edward Island | 69,340 | 735 | 0.2% |
| Québec | 3,851,713 | 86,269 | 22.6% |
| Saskatchewan | 501,757 | 10,181 | 2.7% |
| Canada | 16,866,419 | 382,083 | |

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 1***

### Alberta and Canada Employment Rates[1], 2003 - 2007




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 2***



[1] *The employment rate measures the number of people employed out of the working age population (15+ years).*

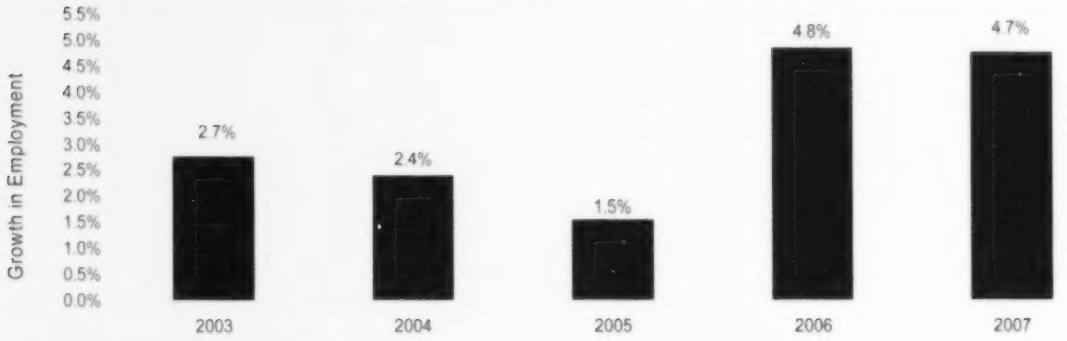
## ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT GROWTH DOUBLES NATIONAL AVERAGE

Alberta's employment rate – the percentage of the working age population (15+ years) that is employed – was the highest in Canada. In 2007, Alberta's employment rate was 71.5% compared to the national rate of 63.5%. (See *Figure 2*)

In the last year, there were 1,959,445 Albertans and 16,866,419 Canadians employed.

Alberta's employment increased by 4.7%, while Canada's increased by 2.3% from 2006 to 2007. From 2003 to 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta increased from 1,716,660 to 1,959,445, for an average annual increase of 60,696. The largest year-to-year increase occurred between 2006 and 2007.
(See *Figure 3 and 4*)

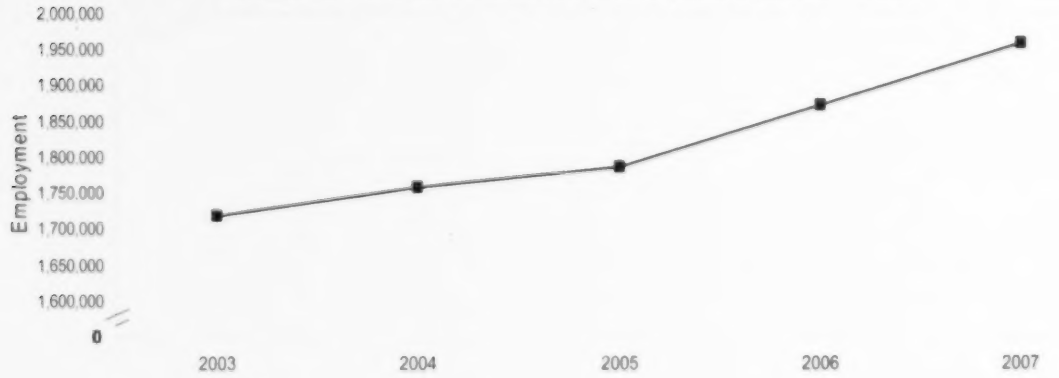
**Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2003 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 3***

**Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2003 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 4***

*NOTE: The slanted lines are used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers and to display the finer details of the differences between the first and last data points.*

# Unemployment

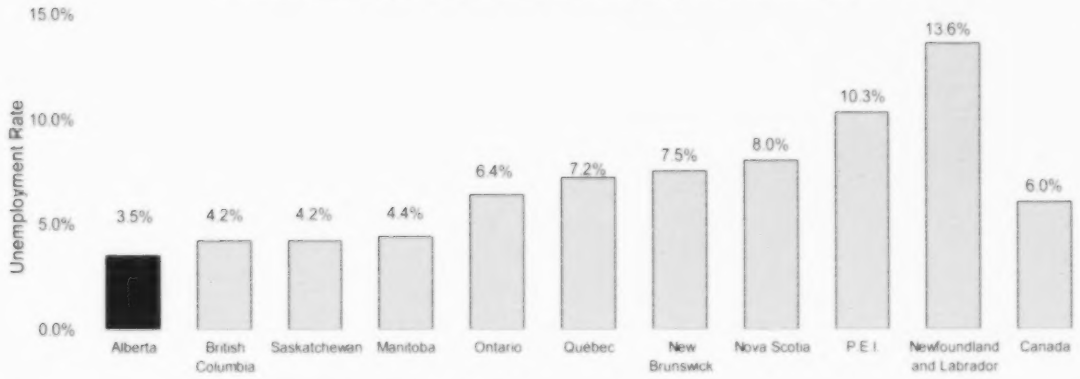
## ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

Alberta enjoyed Canada's lowest unemployment rate[2] of 3.5%, followed by Saskatchewan and British Columbia at 4.2%. The national average unemployment rate was 6.0%. (*See Figure 5*)

In 2007, 31 of 53 major occupational groups in the province had an unemployment rate of less than 3.0%, which reflects skill shortages.

According to *Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook (2007 - 2017)*, Alberta may experience a labour shortage as high as 111,000 workers in the next 10 years. The labour market is expected to grow by 441,000 while 330,000 workers are expected to join the labour force.

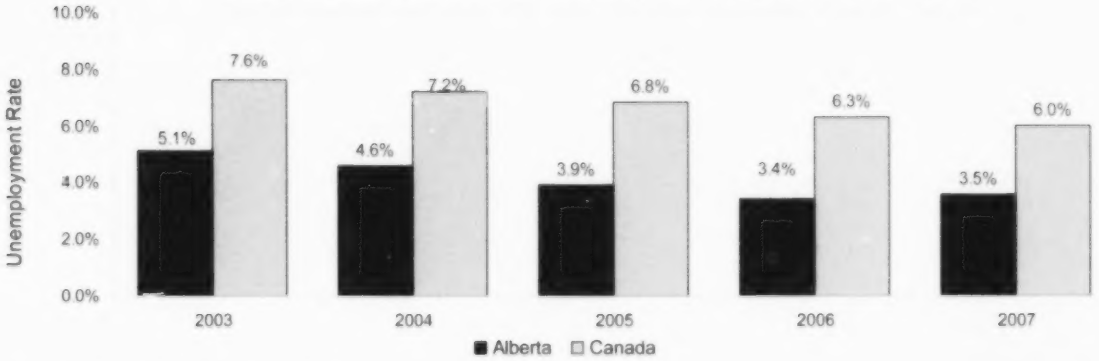
**Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 5***

**Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2003 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 6***



[2] *The unemployment rate measures the number of people in the labour force who are unemployed. The labour force includes individuals who are employed or unemployed and looking for work.*

# Economic Regions

**MOST REGIONS IN ALBERTA EXPERIENCED UNPRECEDENTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH**

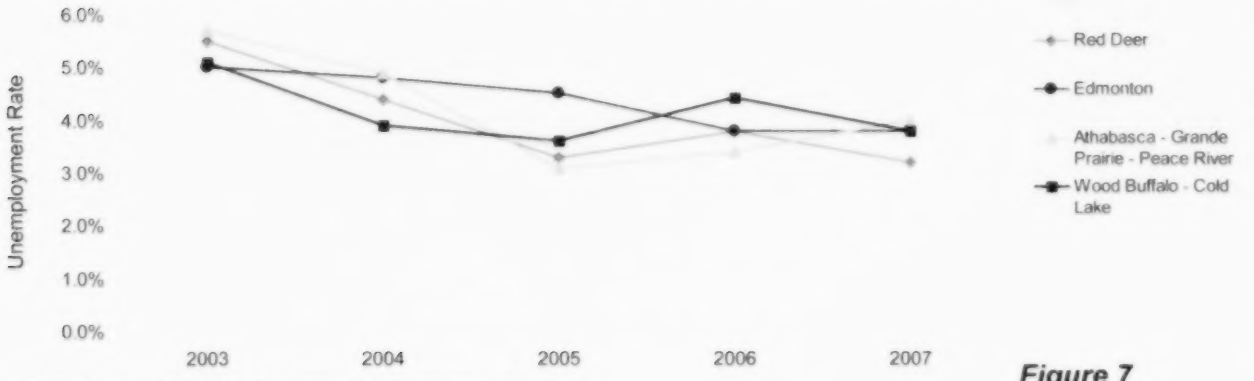
The Edmonton economic region led employment growth with 38,700 additional jobs in 2007. The Calgary economic region added the next highest number of jobs at 31,200.

The Camrose-Drumheller, Red Deer, and Calgary economic regions had the lowest unemployment rates at 3.2% in 2007.

The Red Deer and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake economic regions saw the largest drop in unemployment with a decline of 0.6% between 2006 and 2007.

In 2007, the unemployment rate was 3.8% in the Edmonton economic region and 3.2% in the Calgary economic region. (See *Figure 7 and 8*)

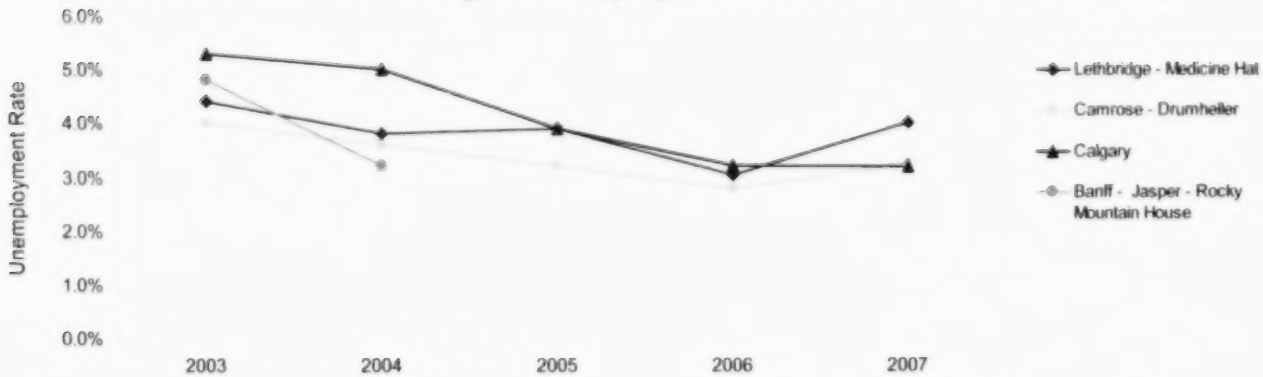
**Northern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2003 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 7***

**Southern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2003 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 8***

*NOTE: In 2005, 2006, and 2007, the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House economic region's unemployment rates were not released due to insufficient data.*

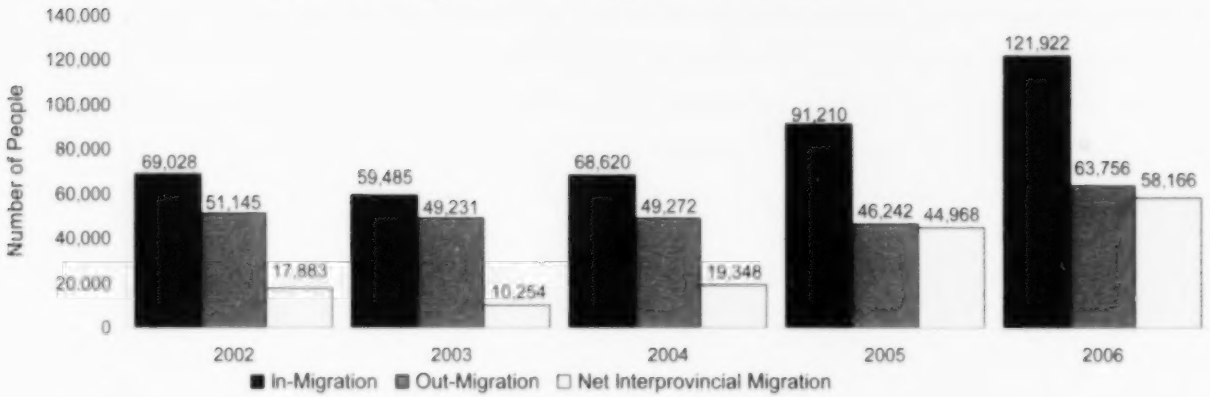
# Migration

## ALBERTA'S STRONG ECONOMY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN 2006

Alberta received a net gain of 81,480 people in 2006 through migration. Of these, 58,166 were interprovincial migrants, the highest number in the past 25 years. (*See Figure 9*)

In 2006, Alberta received 20,717 landed immigrants. The number of landed immigrants to Alberta has been rising since 2002. (*See Figure 10*)

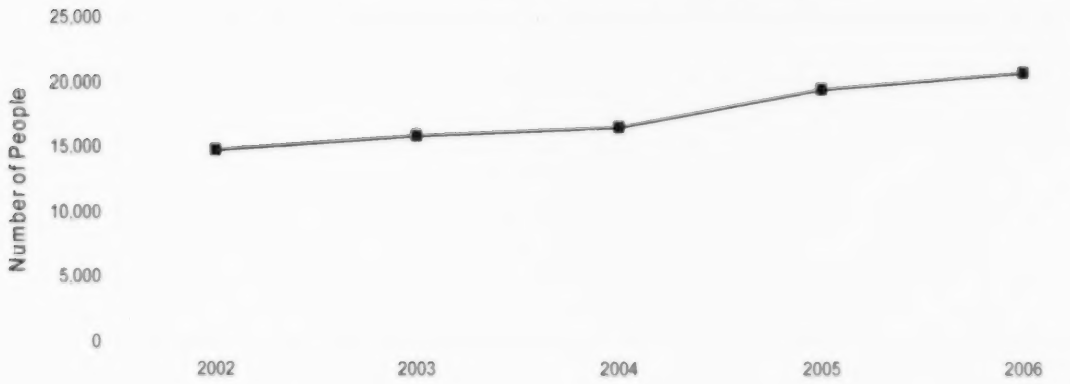
**Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2002 - 2006**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Figure 9***

**Alberta Landed Immigrants, 2002 - 2006**




*Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada*

***Figure 10***

# Aboriginal People

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING OFF-RESERVE EXPERIENCED HIGH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Employment for the off-reserve Aboriginal population rose to 65,900 in 2007, an increase of 3,100 from 2006. The largest percentage, 35.5%, was employed in the Edmonton economic region. (See *Figure 11*)

**Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment by Economic Region, 2007**

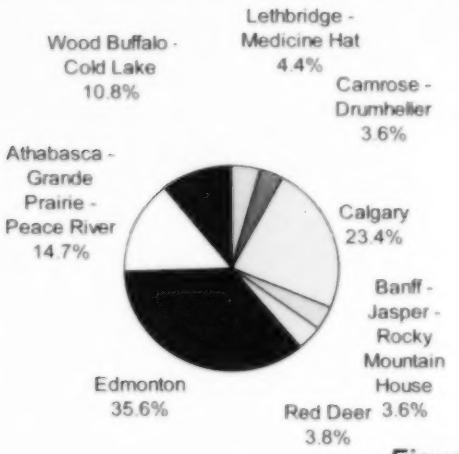

Lethbridge - Medicine Hat 4.4%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake 10.8%
Camrose - Drumheller 3.6%
Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River 14.7%
Calgary 23.4%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House 3.6%
Edmonton 35.6%
Red Deer 3.8%

***Figure 11***

Increases in employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve were largest in Edmonton (2,800 or 13.6%), Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House (800 or 50%), and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake (500 or 7.6%) economic regions.

Economic regions outside of Edmonton and Calgary accounted for 27,100 employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

The industries employing the largest number of Aboriginal people remained the same as 2006. They were Retail Trade, 9,100; Construction, 8,200; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 6,900.

The 2007 unemployment rate stood at 7.7% for the off-reserve Aboriginal people.

The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve continued to rise in 2007. (See *Figure 12*)

**Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment Rates, 2005 - 2007**

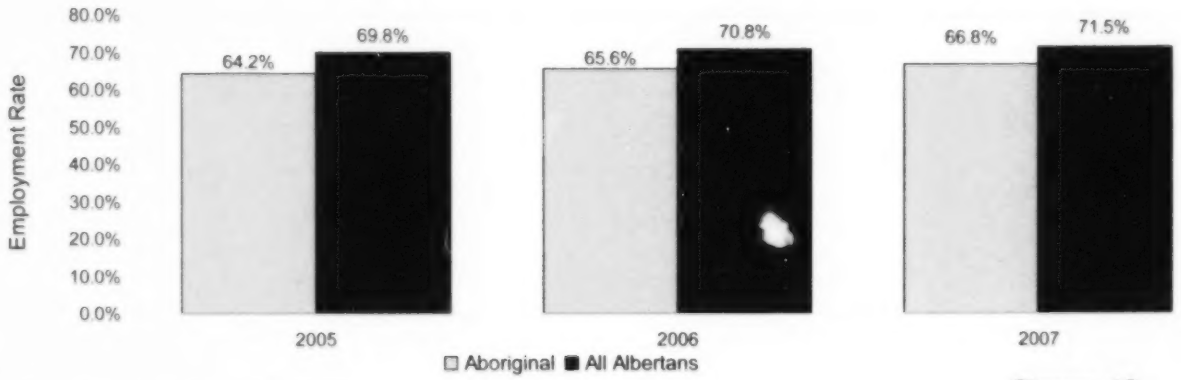



***Figure 12***

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

# Industries

## EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STRONGEST IN SERVICES-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The Services-Producing industries in Alberta experienced more job growth than the Goods-Producing industries in 2007. Employment for the former increased by 50,632 compared to 38,142 for the latter.

Industries that led employment gains were: Construction, 20,507; Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, 11,263; and Management, Administrative and Other Support, 11,256. (See *Figure 13*)

The top three industries with the largest percentage increase in employment between 2006 and 2007 were: Management, Administrative and Other Support, 18.0%; Forestry and Logging with Support Activities, 15.4%; and Utilities, 14.4%.

Figure 13 reports these changes, in descending order of the numbers employed.

**Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2007**

| Industry Group | 2007 Employment | Change in Employment | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Retail Trade | 211,737 | -196 | 3.6% |
| Construction | 193,084 | 20,507 | 3.3% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 189,465 | 9,916 | 1.6% |
| Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction | 146,889 | 11,263 | 2.5% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 146,253 | 4,017 | 1.7% |
| Manufacturing | 142,933 | 5,384 | 2.7% |
| Educational Services | 130,005 | -388 | 2.8% |
| Accommodation and Food Service | 116,766 | 1,916 | 6.2% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 105,745 | -456 | 2.5% |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing | 98,429 | 2,265 | 2.1% |
| Other Services | 94,871 | 6,929 | 2.9% |
| Public Administration | 80,143 | -936 | N/A |
| Wholesale Trade | 78,895 | 8,426 | 2.0% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 76,207 | 7,883 | 3.7% |
| Management, Administrative and Other Support | 73,913 | 11,256 | 4.0% |
| Agriculture | 50,449 | -1,863 | N/A |
| Utilities | 19,554 | 2,464 | N/A |
| Forestry and Logging with Support Activities | 4,051 | 541 | N/A |

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 13***

*NOTE: The unemployment rates for Public Administration, Agriculture, Utilities, and Forestry and Logging with Support Activities were not released due to insufficient data.*

# Occupations

## LARGEST EMPLOYMENT INCREASE IN TRADES, TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS

The occupational groups employing the greatest number of people were Sales and Service Occupations, 441,941; Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations, 366,438; and Business, Finance and Administration Occupations, 349,858. (*See Figure 14*)

The occupational group in Alberta that experienced the largest increase in employment was Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations group at 25,925. Employment gain made in this occupational group was driven by increased construction projects in the province.

The next top two employment increases were in Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations, 15,242; and in Sales and Service Occupations, 15,203.

**Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2007**

| Occupational Groups | 2007 Employment | Change in Employment | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sales and Service Occupations | 441,941 | 15,203 | 4.2% |
| Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations | 366,438 | 25,925 | 3.6% |
| Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations | 349,858 | 11,605 | 2.3% |
| Management Occupations | 158,316 | 2,983 | 0.8% |
| Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations | 155,140 | 15,242 | 1.9% |
| Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion | 145,056 | 1,310 | 2.2% |
| Occupations Unique to Primary Industry | 115,275 | 5,031 | 2.5% |
| Health Occupations | 105,355 | 3,507 | 1.0% |
| Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities | 70,964 | -1,611 | 2.7% |
| Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport | 51,117 | 9,144 | 1.5% |

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 14***

# Education

## MORE ALBERTANS IN THE LABOUR FORCE OBTAIN POST- SECONDARY ACCREDITATIONS

In 2007, 63.4% of the Alberta's labour force had a university degree, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, or some post-secondary education, up from the 61.3% in 2006.

The percentage of high school graduates in the labour force increased from 22.4% to 22.7% from 2003 to 2007.

There were, on average, 8.7% more people in Alberta's labour force with a university bachelor's degree than with a university graduate degree between 2003 and 2007. (See *Figure 15*)

**Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2003 - 2007**

| Education Level | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 8 Years | 2.5% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.8% | 1.7% |
| Some Secondary | 13.8% | 13.7% | 12.3% | 13.2% | 12.2% |
| High School Diploma | 22.4% | 22.9% | 23.2% | 23.6% | 22.7% |
| Some Post-Secondary | 10.3% | 10.4% | 9.1% | 8.4% | 9.5% |
| Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma | 33.1% | 33.3% | 33.0% | 32.1% | 33.6% |
| University: Bachelor's Degree | 13.0% | 12.8% | 14.9% | 15.0% | 14.6% |
| University: Graduate Degree | 4.9% | 4.9% | 5.4% | 5.8% | 5.7% |

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 15***

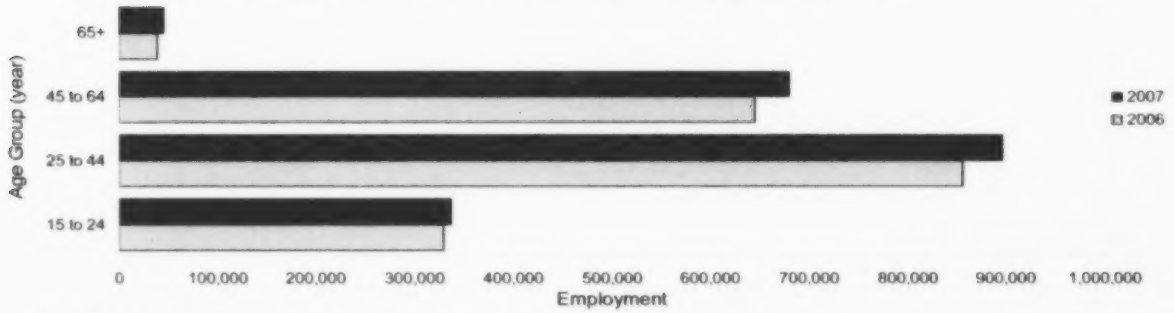
# Demographics

## MORE ALBERTANS IN ALL AGE GROUPS WERE EMPLOYED IN 2007

Albertans between 25-44 years of age accounted for 45.7% of those employed, while people aged 45-64 years represented 34.7%. Alberta's employment rose the most within these two groups, by 39,268 and 32,941 respectively in 2007.

There were 7,367 more people employed in the 15-24 years age category between 2006 and 2007. (*See Figure 16*)

**Alberta Employment by Age Group, 2006 - 2007**



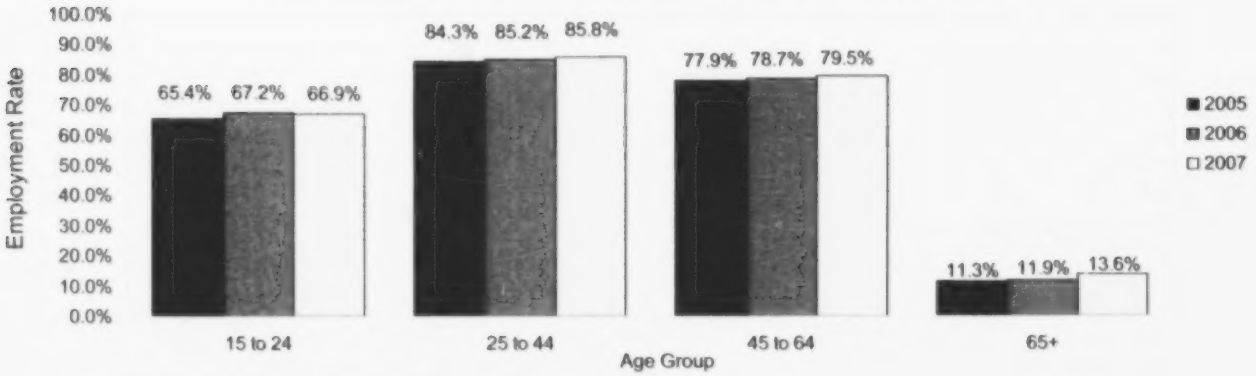

*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 16***

The 65+ age group experienced the largest rise in employment rates, 1.7 percentage points, between 2006 and 2007.

In 2007, approximately 15,025 Albertans retired, 4,100 more than in 2006. *(See Figure 17)*

**Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2005 - 2007**




*Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*

***Figure 17***

# 2007

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